

ART COMPETITION ANNOUNCED FOR AFRICAN ARTISTS

"*AFRICAN ARTS*", a quarterly American magazine devoted to graphic, plastic, performing and literary arts of Africa, has invited high level artists from all over Africa to compete in its 1968 and 1969 competitions. The competitions are classified as follows:

1969 COMPETITION (closing date: March 1, 1969).

One Prize of \$1,000 (approximately R709).

Areas of Competition: Drama and cinema scripts;
completed films produced since January 1, 1967.

One Prize of \$1,000 (approximately R709).

Areas of Competition: *Music and Dance*, produced since January 1, 1967.

Entrance application forms may be obtained from the U.S. Information Service, American Embassy, Pretoria.

The magazine "*AFRICAN ARTS*", is a recent publication with the sole purpose of recording the art of the African past, providing an outlet for the contemporary African artist, and to stimulate creative arts in Africa.

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Extract from a recent letter to Dr. Tracey from Father Corbeil of the Serenje Catholic Mission:

"You advise me in your letter to study the structure of the instruments in my collection. I have already started the drums' structure and I can now make "ukubamba" (to stretch a skin on a drum) in the bush way. It is not easy. To get the best vibrations of a drum you must find the proper skin which matches with the kind of wood . . . After stretching the skin on the cylinder you have also to find the right time to fix it with straps or wooden pegs . . . It is very interesting.

Last week, we had 25 visitors here at my museum. Today the teachers following the refresher course at the Serenje Training College, will come in groups to hear something about Zambian culture and music."

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FILMS FOR LOAN OR PURCHASE

Dr. A. M. Dauer of the Department of Ethnology Institute for Scientific Cinematography writes:

"I am sending you a list of films available in this institute on subjects of African musicology, choreology and general folklore.

Perhaps this information is interesting enough for our colleagues in the branch, so that it deserves publication in one of the forthcoming numbers of the AMS Journal.

Films with the reference letter "E" are conceived as mere research documents, and if they are sound motion pictures the sound has been recorded synchronously by way of a pilot guided system (NAGRA III), thus making the films useful for analytical research and/or transcriptional practices.

An increasing number of films will have accompanying papers with information pertinent to the subject(s) documented, as well as general background material.

Our latest documentation film expedition to the Ivory Coast has just been terminated, with a number of approximately 35 to 40 sound films mostly in colour, on subjects of masks societies, secret societies' public performances, professional and recreational dancing groups, singing and musical performances, and the like. The films should become available in early 1969.

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INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC CINEMATOGRAPHY, GOETTINGEN, WEST GERMANY

Films are available for loan and purchase on subjects pertaining to ethnomusicology, ethnochoreology and general folklore.

All films are of 16 mm size, 24 fps, and can be borrowed by University or High School institutions without charge, except for postage and insurance. Films with the reference letter "E" are available also from the American archive of the Encyclopaedia Cinematographica, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802, U.S.A. Price lists and additional information from either there, or the Institut für den Wissenschaftlichen Film, Nonnenstieg 72, Goettingen, Bundesrepublik Deutschland (IWF).

Sound motion pictures have light sound tape; a number of silent films have a separate magnetic sound tape suitable for tape recorder 33/4 ips.

Films are listed with their reference letter, reference number, full title in German, author and/or producer, year of publication, length in minutes, brief annotations. Unless otherwise stated, the films are b/w and silent.

For further information write direct to the Institute for Scientific Cinematography, Goettingen, West Germany.

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MOÇAMBIQUE - GUATEMALA

While in Chicago in November, 1967, with our show "Wait a Minim", I met Jose Bethancourt, the marimba virtuoso from Guatemala, and heard him play. He was terrific, whether using two sticks for rhythmic passages, or up to six for harmonic! He is a charming little old man, and thinking he would be interested in seeing our Chopi *timbila* (how often have these been reported in the press as Hopi *timbila*, or even Chopin pianos!), I invited him to see our show, and to come and look at the instruments afterwards. This he did, and was fascinated at the *timbila*, remarking how similar they were to the Guatemalan "Indian" marimba de arco. But when I showed him the *makosi*, the tiny buzzing membranes over the